NEWSLETTER OF THE AREA PLANNING BOARD OF PALM BEACH COUNTY · P.O. BOX 3643 · WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33402

Palm Beach County Public Library System
West Palm Beach, Florida
DEC 0 4 1974

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The preparation of this Newsletter was financed in part through a Comprehensive Planning Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development
VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2 JULY 1974

OVERVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

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Other more recent guidelines established by the A.P.B. recommendations which have been implemented by Palm Beach County include: the hiring and staffing of a full-time recreation director and department concerned with the development of park sites; and, the creation of a recreation and open space planning function which is now staffed by a recreation planner and urban forester.

apb PLANNING NEWS

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Perhaps the singlemost important recommendation of the **Recreation and Open Space Plan — Phase 2** produced in 1973, was that Palm Beach County must begin coordinating its recreation planning efforts with those of the municipalities. Presently, an example of this recommendation is being successfully implemented through a cooperative effort involving the County Recreation Department, the County Planning and Zoning Department, and the municipalities in producing a countywide network of bicycle paths. This cooperative effort will result in the construction of approximately 100 miles of paved bicycle paths interconnecting the urbanized areas of Palm Beach County.

In recent years, the efforts of the Area Planning Board have produced five major reports concerned with Recreation and Open Space planning for the purpose of guiding and advising all county governments, municipalities and citizen groups in matters of recreation and open space acquisition and development. The five reports are:

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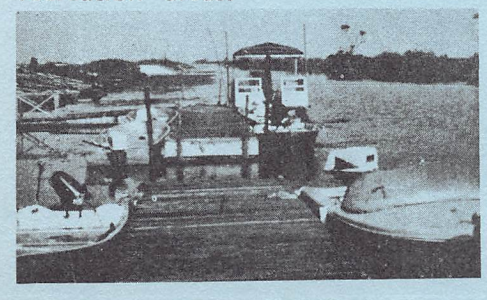

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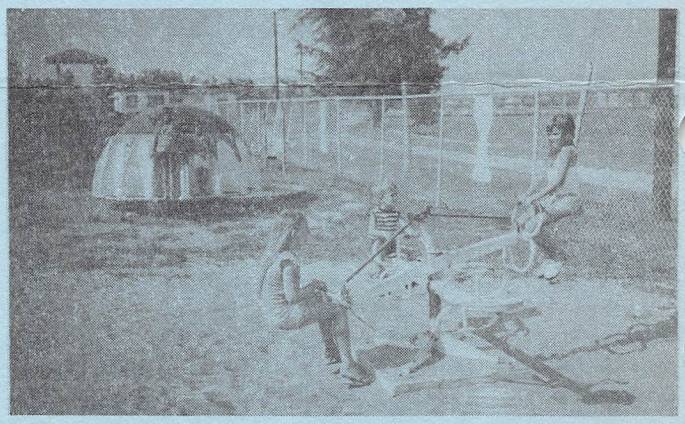

Subsequent to the completion of the Recreation and Open Space Plans, Phases 1 & 2, the major accomplishment, as a result of the APB's effort in recreation planning, has been the formation of the Parks and Recreation Committee. This committee has established as its primary goal an on-going coordinated recreation planning and activity effort to benefit all residents of Palm Beach County. This goal will be attained by coordinating the efforts of all municipalities and the county government in regards to providing recreation opportunities, facilities, and programs. The basic guide for these efforts is the aforementioned **Recreation and Open Space Plan — Phase 2** report. Most recently, the committee has been involved in planning a system of bikeways throughout Palm Beach County.

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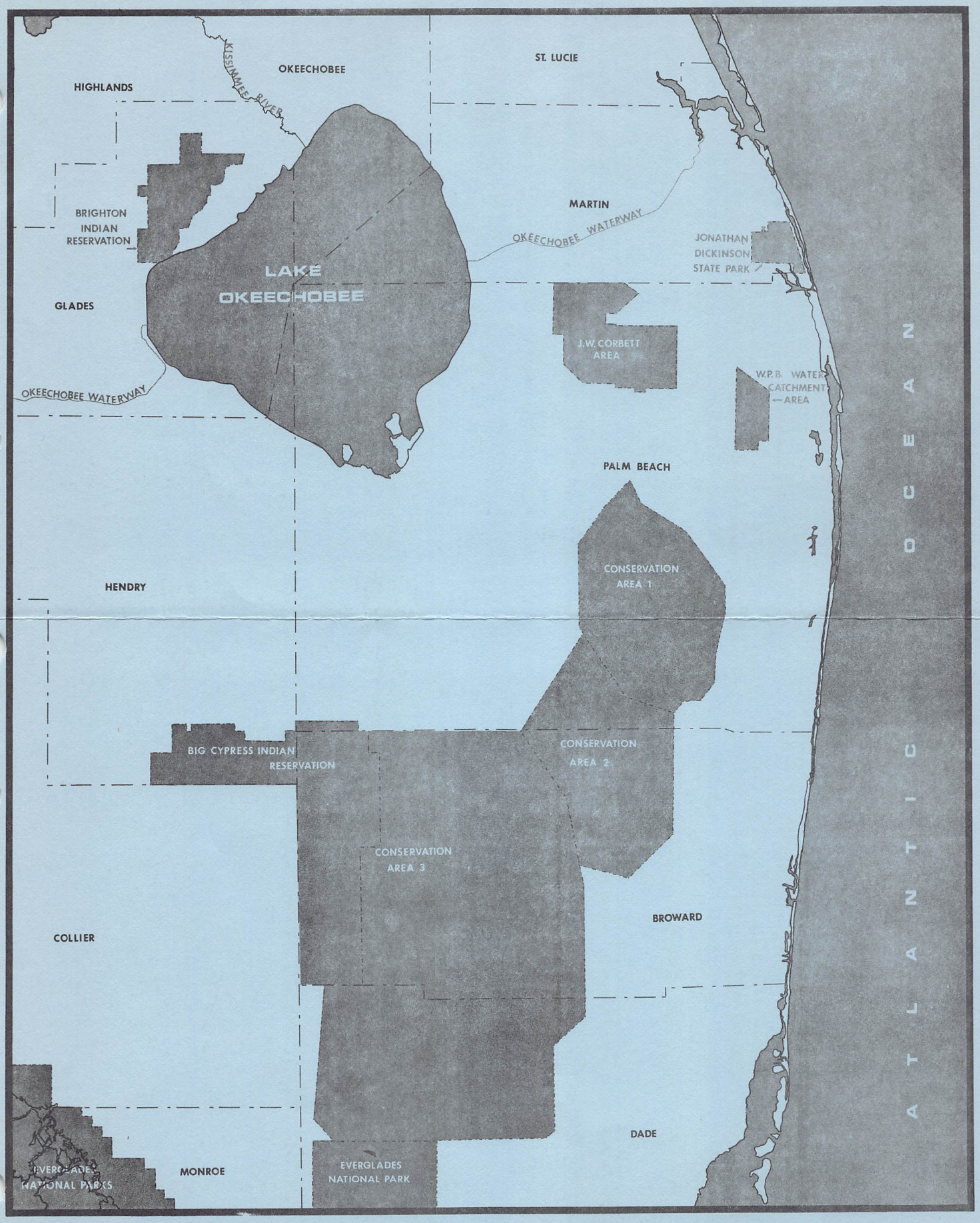

AREA PLANNING BOARD OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

MAJOR EXISTING PUBLIC OPEN SPACES - LANDS AND WATERS

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1. To keep the general public informed with respect to programs for recreation and open space development and improvement;
2. To serve as a medium for the promotion of private programs in support of the county-wide recreational planning objectives;
3. To be responsible for the development of park and recreation planning work programs; for coordinating recreation planning and programming; for review of recreation studies, reports, plans and/or programs and making recommendations to the Area Planning Board;
4. To serve as an advisory committee to any municipality and all duly constituted area-wide authorities and/or boards, as well as areawide planning boards or councils for the location, development and/or improvement of park and recreation facilities upon the direct request of such authorities, boards or councils.

The membership of the Committee constitutes a thorough cross-section of the citizens of Palm Beach County and includes the following people:

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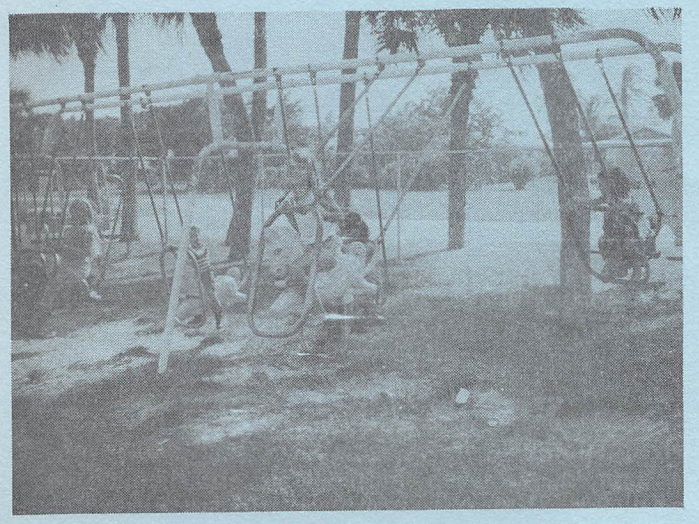


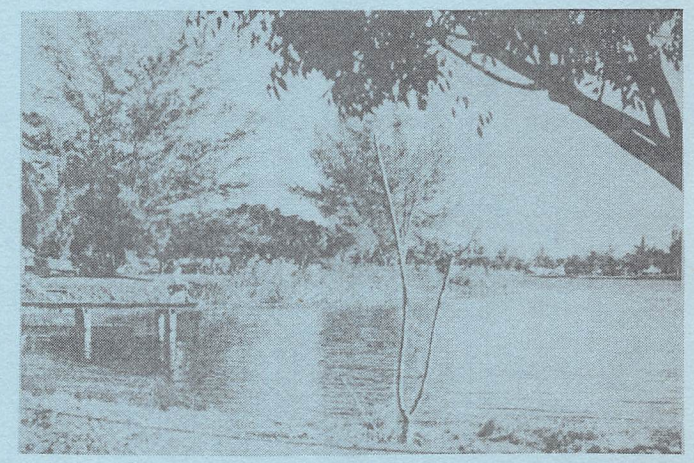
As mentioned previously, the basic guide for the Committee is the Area Planning Board's **Recreation and Open Space Plan — Phase 2** report. The findings and conclusions of this report indicate that Palm Beach County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, and the demands being placed on its park and recreational facilities are phenomenal. Foresight and sound leadership in providing for the growing leisure time of a growing population must take place now if future demands are to be met.

Relating to parks and recreation, the problems confronting Palm Beach County today are not unlike many other areas throughout the country. These problems are being compounded for reasons such as:

(a) Urban Sprawl;
(b) Increased demands on existing facilities;
(c) Increased leisure time, life span, and mobility.

These problems indicate the immediate need for more active citizen involvement, a closer working relationship with schools, improved voluntary and private agency relationship, additional financing, and the modernization of facilities.

The rapidly increasing amount of leisure time available to the individual citizen, as well as his expectations of being able to use this time pleasurably and beneficially, make the need for sound planning and programming an urgent need. The desirability of governmental services is generally taken for granted as a part of today's way of life, but the development of a well balanced set of recreation opportunities, programmed in modern park settings with intelligent forethought, cannot be taken for granted. Parks and playgrounds contribute to the individual's health and happiness in many measurable ways; they also make communities more attractive and reflect favorably on the public spirit and civic pride.



Interesting and challenging recreational programs for children provide a creative outlet for energies and thereby reduce the circumstances which lead to juvenile delinquency. It is a well known fact that programs for youth provide a healthy climate for proper social development. Adults can find relief from the tensions of the working world, and senior citizens can be given opportunities of social contact and development of their leisure time interests.

With Palm Beach County rapidly becoming one of the most urbanized counties, we must move ahead now to secure adequate land to be permanently set aside for convenient recreational use; these areas should be acquired well in advance of the need. This is due to the simple fact that when the urban area is almost totally built up, the land in the large parcels needed for park and recreation purposes becomes prohibitively expensive. At the proper time, and ahead of land development, the public can acquire such land at a fraction of its later cost. It is obvious that we are paying higher prices today than would have been necessary if this policy had been followed in the past.

The present need for park and recreation services is great, however, the expected future demand for such areas will be even greater. Population growth is only one of a number of contributing factors to this increased demand. As important are: shorter work weeks, higher income and rising education levels. As each individual works less, earns more money, and is better educated, his desire for adequate recreation programs at modern park facilities also increases. Added together, these factors indicate that the demand for park and recreation programs and services will increase enormously in the next few decades. As shown in all the major reports of the Area Planning Board concerned with recreation and open space, the park areas and recreation programs and facilities existing in Palm Beach County are not adequate to satisfy present and future recreation needs.

In order to assure that there will be adequate recreation facilities for the citizens of Palm Beach County now and in the future, guidelines must be set with regard to preserving the environment, as well as preserving land for existing and future recreation need. The **Recreation and Open Space Plan — Phase 2** presented the following recommendations as guidelines that can be applied on a Countywide level to all recreation areas existing or proposed. They are:

(a) The dwindling amount of vacant land requires that acquisition of areas suitable for recreation take precedent over facility construction. Land in urban low income or high density areas should be given first acquisition priority over suburban or rural areas.

(b) Oceanfront areas should receive acquisition priority over inland areas due to overdevelopment of the coastline to date. Suitable areas adjacent to waterways, canals, rivers, and lakes should also receive top purchase priority for the same reasons of overdevelopment.

(c) Priority should be placed upon acquisition of potential recreation areas that possess unique cultural or natural values. Historical sites, areas possessing uncommon native vegetation, areas that by way of natural formation are unique in their recreation offerings, and areas that would require a minimum of alteration to be capable of providing large scale recreation activity should be considered as priority items.

(d) Areas that possess the capability of being multi-use recreation areas, i.e., waterfront or open lands and wooded areas combined, should be considered for purchase or development over areas of single use capabilities.

(e) Legislation should be encouraged, formulated and adopted that preserves, enhances and otherwise supports the development and preservation of existing and future recreation lands. Such legislation would include: tree preservation ordinances; landscape ordinances; dune and beach preservation ordinances, and historical or scenic preservation ordinances. Assistance in preparation and enforcement of such legislation would come from a variety of sources, among them: the region's Urban Forestry agent; coastal management representatives; landscape architects; recreation planners, and local historical societies.

(f) When a recreation area is in the early stages of its development, it is both practical and expeditious to construct the maintenance, protection and management facilities, before constructing the actual area use elements. In this way, the area can be utilized in a partial manner until it reaches its optimum level of planned development.

(g) Where possible, recreation areas should be developed where joint participation in regard to facility maintenance and development can be achieved. Such an arrangement would be a park and recreation area adjoining a school or college.

Efforts should be made to integrate the recommended guidelines discussed above into all existing and proposed recreation plans throughout Palm Beach County.

It has been the intent of the open space and recreation plans produced by the Area Planning Board to present information to be utilized in a total countywide open space and recreation program. The analysis of existing facilities, the establishment of criteria and standards, and the presentation of proposals and recommendations, based on the standards, will ensure adequate open space in the future.

It is anticipated that the citizens of Palm Beach County will look upon the recommendations of the various A.P.B. recreation reports as vital elements necessary for the improved health and well being of themselves and their children. The expense involved in providing adequate park and recreation areas is an investment in the future, and, if properly planned, will reap great physical, mental, economic and environmental dividends.

For the goals of this, or any other plan, to become a reality, we must preserve the natural resources and the common well being of all the people, yet, at the same time, be able to take advantage of the fruits of technology, change and development. We must begin to value the outdoor life, to value the natural resources, to value the quality of the atmosphere, to value how another man lives and to allow him to live in his own way. When we dedicate our attention to the issues that transcend each of us and are not just concerned with our selfish interests, but are concerned about all of us as a group, then we can deal with the world in which we live. This we must do!

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John Maloy CHAIRMAN	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
C. Errol Hicks VICE CHAIRMAN	Appointed by:	School Board of Palm Beach County
Alan C. Alford	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Bill J. Bailey	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
Robert Culpepper	Appointed by:	Board of County Commissioners, Palm Beach County
Robert Harp	Appointed by:	Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
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Lake Lytal	Appointed by:	Board of County Commissioners, Palm Beach County
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Frank W. Brutt Planning Director

Florence E. Biller, Dir.
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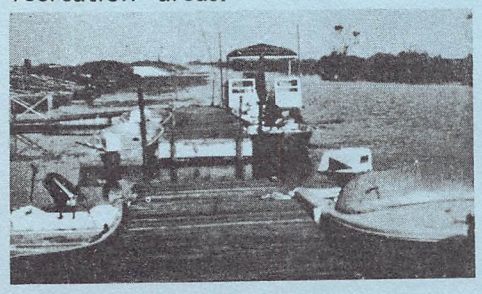

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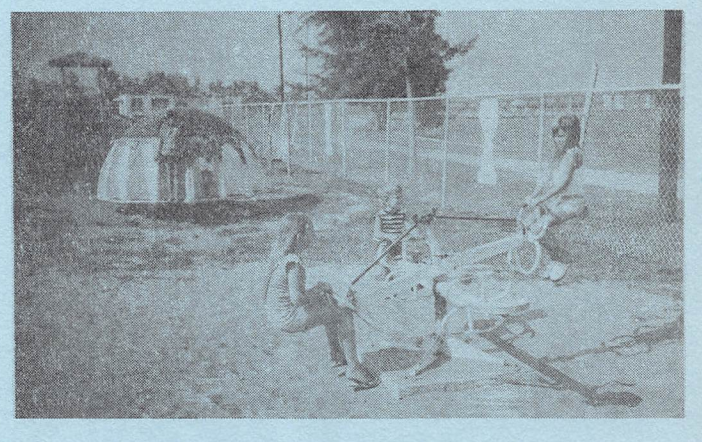

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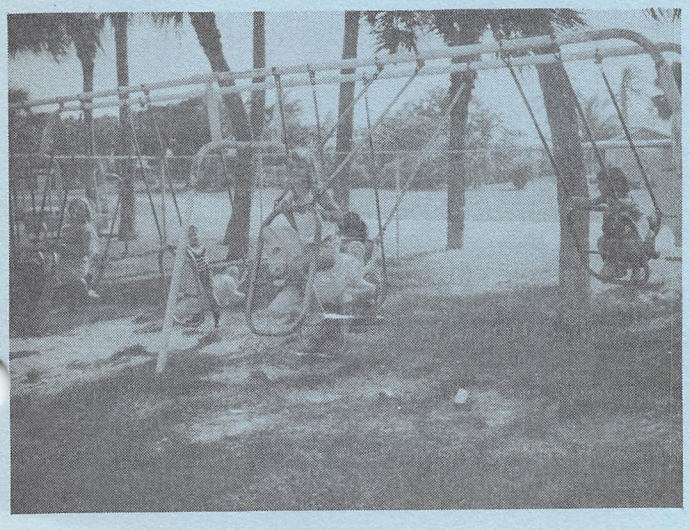

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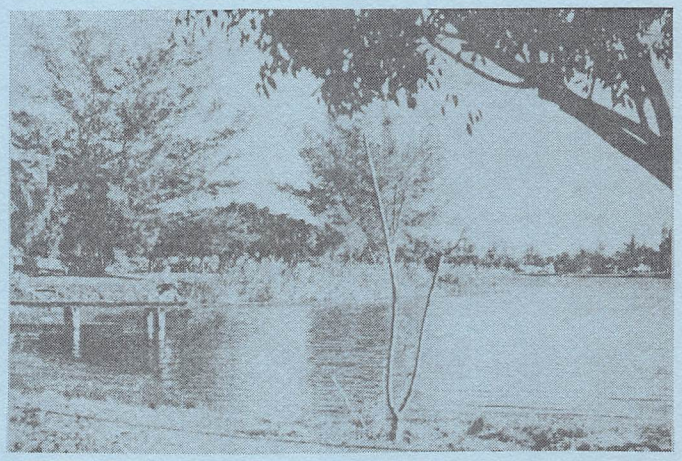

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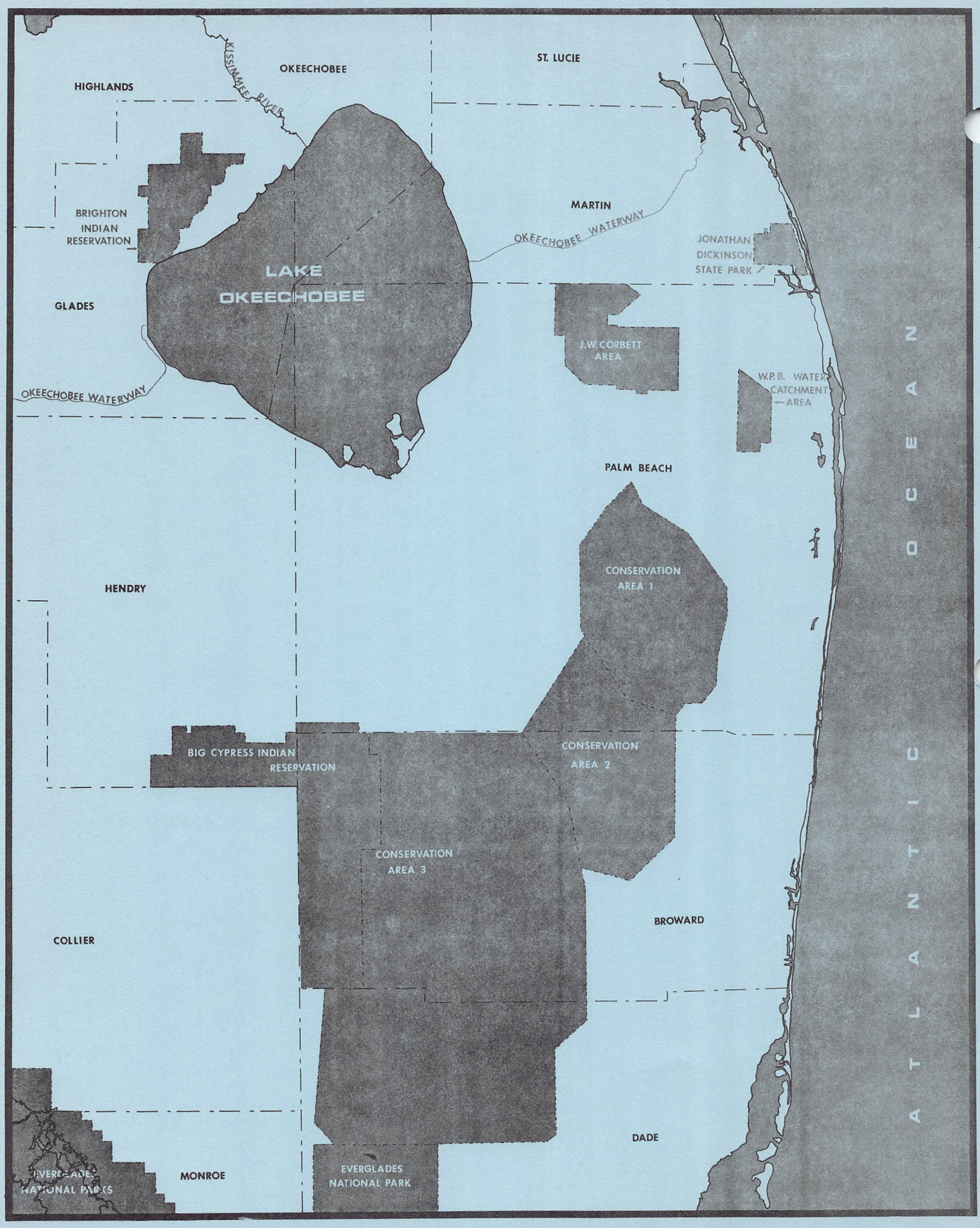

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With Palm Beach County rapidly becoming one of the most urbanized counties, we must move ahead now to secure adequate land to be permanently set aside for convenient recreational use; these areas should be acquired well in advance of the need. This is due to the simple fact that when the urban area is almost totally built up, the land in the large parcels needed for park and recreation purposes becomes prohibitively expensive. At the proper time, and ahead of land development, the public can acquire such land at a fraction of its later cost. It is obvious that we are paying higher prices today than would have been necessary if this policy had been followed in the past.

The present need for park and recreation services is great, however, the expected future demand for such areas will be even greater. Population growth is only one of a number of contributing factors to this increased demand. As important are: shorter work weeks, higher income and rising education levels. As each individual works less, earns more money, and is better educated, his desire for adequate recreation programs at modern park facilities also increases. Added together, these factors indicate that the demand for park and recreation programs and services will increase enormously in the next few decades. As shown in all the major reports of the Area Planning Board concerned with recreation and open space, the park areas and recreation programs and facilities existing in Palm Beach County are not adequate to satisfy present and future recreation needs.

In order to assure that there will be adequate recreation facilities for the citizens of Palm Beach County now and in the future, guidelines must be set with regard to preserving the environment, as well as preserving land for existing and future recreation need. The **Recreation and Open Space Plan — Phase 2** presented the following recommendations as guidelines that can be applied on a Countywide level to all recreation areas existing or proposed. They are:

(a) The dwindling amount of vacant land requires that acquisition of areas suitable for recreation take precedent over facility construction. Land in urban low income or high density areas should be given first acquisition priority over suburban or rural areas.

(b) Oceanfront areas should receive acquisition priority over inland areas due to overdevelopment of the coastline to date. Suitable areas adjacent to waterways, canals, rivers, and lakes should also receive top purchase priority for the same reasons of overdevelopment.

(c) Priority should be placed upon acquisition of potential recreation areas that possess unique cultural or natural values. Historical sites, areas possessing uncommon native vegetation, areas that by way of natural formation are unique in their recreation offerings, and areas that would require a minimum of alteration to be capable of providing large scale recreation activity should be considered as priority items.

(d) Areas that possess the capability of being multi-use recreation areas, i.e., waterfront or open lands and wooded areas combined, should be considered for purchase or development over areas of single use capabilities.

(e) Legislation should be encouraged, formulated and adopted that preserves, enhances and otherwise supports the development and preservation of existing and future recreation lands. Such legislation would include: tree preservation ordinances; landscape ordinances; dune and beach preservation ordinances, and historical or scenic preservation ordinances. Assistance in preparation and enforcement of such legislation would come from a variety of sources, among them: the region's Urban Forestry agent; coastal management representatives; landscape architects; recreation planners, and local historical societies.

(f) When a recreation area is in the early stages of its development, it is both practical and expeditious to construct the maintenance, protection and management facilities, before constructing the actual area use elements. In this way, the area can be utilized in a partial manner until it reaches its optimum level of planned development.

(g) Where possible, recreation areas should be developed where joint participation in regard to facility maintenance and development can be achieved. Such an arrangement would be a park and recreation area adjoining a school or college.

Efforts should be made to integrate the recommended guidelines discussed above into all existing and proposed recreation plans throughout Palm Beach County.

It has been the intent of the open space and recreation plans produced by the Area Planning Board to present information to be utilized in a total countywide open space and recreation program. The analysis of existing facilities, the establishment of criteria and standards, and the presentation of proposals and recommendations, based on the standards, will ensure adequate open space in the future.

It is anticipated that the citizens of Palm Beach County will look upon the recommendations of the various A.P.B. recreation reports as vital elements necessary for the improved health and well being of themselves and their children. The expense involved in providing adequate park and recreation areas is an investment in the future, and, if properly planned, will reap great physical, mental, economic and environmental dividends.

For the goals of this, or any other plan, to become a reality, we must preserve the natural resources and the common well being of all the people, yet, at the same time, be able to take advantage of the fruits of technology, change and development. We must begin to value the outdoor life, to value the natural resources, to value the quality of the atmosphere, to value how another man lives and to allow him to live in his own way. When we dedicate our attention to the issues that transcend each of us and are not just concerned with our selfish interests, but are concerned about all of us as a group, then we can deal with the world in which we live. This we must do!

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